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6th December 1960.

Mr. Alan Paton,
P.O. Anerley,
South Coast,
Natal.

Dear Alan,

It is a pleasure to extend to you on behalf of the Executive Committee an invitation to participate, as an adviser, in the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches to be held in New Delhi, India, from 18th November to 6th December, 1961.

As an adviser you do not have a vote at the Assembly but have the privilege of speaking upon the invitation of the chairman. We attach great importance to the function of the advisers and have made an attempt to invite under this category persons who, as stated in the Constitution, "have a special contribution to make to the deliberations of the Assembly or who have participated in the activities of the World Council."

We therefore very much hope that you will be able to accept this invitation and should like to hear from you on this at your earliest convenience.

It is hoped that your expenses in connexion with your participation in the Assembly will be borne by your church or found from other sources, but if this should not prove possible please write to us on this matter.

When we hear from you we will send you accreditation, the necessary registration forms and preparatory documents.

Yours sincerely,

W.A. Visser 't Hooft
General Secretary

23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
Natal, South Africa.

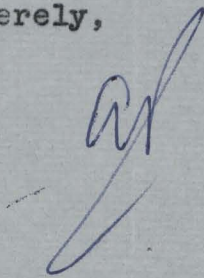
25th January, 1961.

Frar Dr. 't Hooft,

Needless to say I was honoured to receive your invitation to attend the Third Assembly as an adviser, and there is nothing which I would have enjoyed more. However, as you know, I am no longer in possession of a passport, and I do not expect to be in possession of one at the time of the Third Assembly.

All best wishes and congratulations on the way you helped us at Cottesloe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'ad', written in a cursive style.

Best wishes for your new paper on race problems. Some people are getting tired of these problems, and think they ought to be given a rest, but every sensible person knows they cannot be put aside, and that some kind of solution is essential for the peace of the world, just as much as some kind of solution of the nuclear problem.

In fact race problems must be ranked with nuclear problems as equally explosive. It was superior scientific knowledge and technology that enabled the white West to overrun the rest of the world, and, while bringing many benefits, to rule with arrogance and to institute the colour bar. Each day we are given new revelations of the resentment that was caused by the colour bar, and we realise afresh that to hurt pride and not to care about it is the most dangerous of all human actions, especially when it is done on the grand scale. I have no doubt that this hurt pride, this resentment, this determination to show one's own qualities, coupled in certain cases and places with the desire for revenge, will together constitute, in varying proportions, one of the most powerful political forces with which man will have to reckon for a long time to come.

It is therefore important to examine all that is meant by race problems, and to consider what, for example, the West can do to prevent the newly liberated forces of the emergent world from being destructive in their vigour.

South Africa should be one of the most important areas

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for examination, and amongst others, the following questions should be asked. Is Apartheid a sensible way of solving the problems of a multi-racial society? Is it ethical or possible? If it is impossible, then what form will it take if efforts are made to con- it? What will be the effects of this on the peace of the world and the welfare of man? And if the effects could be catastrophic, then what should the rest of the world do about it?

These are difficult and important questions, and I hope your paper will help to throw light on them, and to encourage many to endeavour to find their answers.

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